

Torwali language

Torwali (Urdu: ٿوروالی‎) is a Dardic^[5] language of the Northwestern Indo-Aryan family mainly spoken in the Bahrain and Chail areas of the Swat District in Northern Pakistan.^[6] It is said to have originated from the pre-Muslim Dardic communities of Pakistan.^[7] It has two dialects (the Bahrain and Chail).^[8] The language and its community, like other communities, Gawri in Swat and in Dir, and the ones in Indus Kohistan, is often referred to as "Kohistani" which is a name given by the Swat Pathans. Fredrik Barth says "By the Swat Pathans, the people are known as Kohistanis, together with the other non-Pathan peoples given that name; together with the Torwalis, Kohistanis of Swat Kohistan". The Afghans call them 'Kohistani'--a name everywhere given by Pathans to 'the Mussulmans of Indic descent living' in Hindu Kush.^{[9][10]} Close to 30-35% of its speakers have migrated permanently to the bigger cities of Pakistan where their language is either being replaced by the national language Urdu, or by other languages of wider communication such as Pashto or Punjabi. The language Torwali is said to have originated from the pre-Muslim Dardic communities of Swat.^[11]

Endangerment: Torwali is among the 27 endangered languages according to the UNESCO's Atlas of endangered languages.^[12] Glottolog categorizes it as 'vulnerable'.^[13] Efforts to revitalize the Torwali language were started back in 2004 and mother tongue community schools were planned and established by Idara Baraye Taleem-o-Taraqi (IBT).^[14] Zubair Torwali founded Idara Baraye Taleem-o-Taraqi (IBT)--the institute for education and development. He and his team introduced mother tongue based multilingual education in Bahrain Swat and started advocacy for its revitalization.^[15]

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Torwali	
Region	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
<div>Native speakers</div>	110,000 ^{[1][2]} (2001) ^[3]
<div>Language family</div>	<div>Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indo-Iranian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Indo-Aryan<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dardic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kohistani<ul style="list-style-type: none">Torwali</div>
Writing system	Arabic script
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	trw
Glottolog	torw1241 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/torw1241) ^[4]



Bahrain, the main town of the Torwali community

Phonology

Although descriptions of Torwali phonology have appeared in the literature, some questions still remain unanswered.^{[16][17]}

Vowels

Vowels According to Edelman^[16]

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i iː		u uː
Mid	e eː		o oː
Open		a aː	

Edelman's analysis, which was based on Grierson and Morgenstierne, shows nasal counterparts to at least /e o a/ and also found a series of central (reduced?) vowels, transcribed as: ⟨ä⟩, ⟨ü⟩, ⟨ö⟩.^[16]

Vowels According to Lunsford^[17]

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i i̠	(ɨ̠)	u u̠
Mid	e ẽ (ɛ̠)	ə (ə̠)	o õ
Open	æ æ̠		a ã

Lunsford had some difficulty determining vowel phonemes and suggested there may be retracted vowels with limited distribution: /ɨ̠/ (which may be [ɨ̠]), /ɛ̠/, /ə̠/.^[17] Retracted or retroflex vowels are also found in Kalash-mondr.^[18]

Consonants

The phonemic status of the breathy voiced series is debatable.

Sounds with particularly uncertain status are marked with a superscript question mark.

	Labial	Coronal	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m	n	(ŋ)			
Stop	p p ^h	b b ^h	t t ^h	d d ^h	k k ^h	g g ^h
Affricate		(ts) [?]	tʂ tʂ ^h	dʒ dʒ ^h		
Fricative (Lateral)		s (ʃ) [?]	ʂ ʂ ^h	ʃ ʃ ^h	x x ^h	h h ^h
Approximant (Lateral)		l		j	w	
Rhotic		r	ɽ [?]			

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External links

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